

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/768,965
Amendment filed May 21, 2007
Reply to OA dated December 19, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claim 3, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ An allergen inactivating method for dust mites or pollen mainly composed of protein allergens ~~according to claim 1;~~ by maintaining the allergens under a condition in which the enzyme and a denaturing agent exist.

Claim 4 (Original): The allergen inactivating method according to claim 3, wherein the denaturing agent is any one of a surfactant, urea and a salt.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): The allergen inactivating method according to claim 3, wherein the enzyme is a protease.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): An allergen inactivating filter comprising a filter main body and any one of inactivating means of heat, an acid, an alkali and an enzyme having an allergen inactivating function.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9, wherein the filter main body comprises a material having any one or both of water absorbing property and moisture absorbing property.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9, comprising a carrier between the filter main body and the inactivation means.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 11, wherein the carrier comprises a material having any one or both of water absorbing property and moisture absorbing property.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9, further comprising heating means.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9, comprising water feed means in the filter main body.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The allergen inactivating filter according to claim 14, wherein the water feed means is a water tank which feeds water to the filter main body by pressurizing means in contact with an edge of the filter main body.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An air treating apparatus comprising the allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The air treating apparatus according to claim 16, which is any one of an air conditioner, an air cleaner, a dehumidifier and a drier.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The air treating apparatus according to claim 16, comprising an allergen removing operation mode.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A home electric appliance comprising a guide port which guides air to the inside and a discharge port which discharges air from the inside, wherein the allergen inactivating filter according to claim 9 is provided at the discharge port.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A virus inactivating agent containing at least one active component selected from the group consisting of a protein denaturing agent and a protein decomposing enzyme.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The virus inactivating agent according to claim 20, containing both the protein denaturing agent and the protein decomposing enzyme.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The virus inactivating agent according to claim 20, wherein the enzyme is a protease.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A virus inactivating method comprising allowing the virus to contact a solution containing the virus inactivating agent according to claim 20.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A virus inactivating filter comprising a virus trapping filter and the virus inactivating agent according to claim 20 adhered to the virus trapping filter.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): An air conditioning unit comprising an air suction port to suck air, a heat exchanger to cool or heat the air sucked from the suction port by heat-exchange between the

air and a coolant, an air blow port to return the air after heat exchange with the heat exchanger into a room, ventilation means for blowing the air sucked from the suction port to be heat-exchanged into the room from the air blow port, a virus inactivating filter which immobilizes the virus inactivating agent according to claim 20 disposed in an inner space through which the air flows, and inactivating agent activating means for maintaining the inner space in an atmosphere in which the virus inactivating agent is activated.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The air conditioning unit according to claim 25, wherein the inactivating agent activating means vaporizes condensed water generated by cooling operation of the heat exchanger by heating operation of the heat exchanger executed after the cooling operation.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The air conditioning unit according to claim 25, wherein the inactivating agent activating means vaporizes condensed water generated by cooling operation of the heat exchanger and collected in a drain receiver by heating with heating means.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): The air conditioning unit according to claim 25, wherein, after maintaining the inner space in a high temperature and high humidity state by the inactivating agent activating means, degradation preventive operation of removing moisture from the inactivating agent carrier is executed.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/768,965**
Amendment filed May 21, 2007
Reply to OA dated December 19, 2006

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The air conditioning unit according to claim 25, wherein, before activating the virus inactivating agent on the inactivating agent carrier, virus trapping operation of sucking indoor air in the inner space to allow the air to flow through the inactivating agent carrier is executed.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): An air conditioner comprising the air conditioning unit according to claim 25, other conditioning unit having a compressor to compress a coolant and a heat exchanger to heat-exchange between the coolant and air, and piping unit for coolant to circulate the coolant between the said two air conditioning units.